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Malaysia Message

Singapore.
October 1934.
Volume 44.
No. 10

The Temple Gate

From an Original Etching by C. Jackson

PERSONALS

BISHOP W. F. OLDHAM writes from India that he and Mrs. Oldham plan to arrive in Malaya in November.

The REV. ABEL EKLUND and MR. BURR BAUGHMAN of Penang, MR. H. H. PETERSEN of Ipoh, MR. SIANTURI of 9th Mile School, Cameron Highlands, MR. VICTOR HOETAOE-ROEK of Malacca, and Mr. P. B. MEANS of Singapore, recently took a six days jungle trip from Renglet, Cameron Highlands into the heart of the Pahang jungle. After three days of strenuous walking they arrived at Sungei Telom where MR. ALEXANDER SIMANJOENTJAK has opened a splendid piece of work for the Sakais of that district. All returned safely after having enjoyed many interesting and novel experiences among the Sakais. Fuller reports will be given in the next number of the Malaysia Message.

REV. & MRS. W. A. Schurr and MICHAEL arrived in Kuala Lumpur September 7th and have occupied the Wesley Manse. Mr. Schurr joins the staff of the Methodist Boys School, Kuala Lumpur, and becomes pastor of Wesley Church.

MRS. P. L. PEACH is sailing from New York for Malaya the latter part of October. The three children are left with friends in America and are now all students in high school. Mr. Peach is temporarily making his home with the Schurrs until the arrival of Mrs. Peach in December.

CAPT. L. B. GUTTORNSEN of s.s. "Dukat" has recently taken on the support of a Chinese colporteur, Mr. So Siu San, a member of our Geylang Methodist Church. Mr. So is now employed for evangelistic and colportage work exclusively in the Harbour of Singapore among the boat crews, fishermen and dockmen. Capt. Guttornsen is an enthusiastic worker in the Kingdom. We are grateful to him for his generous gift of support to our general literature and evangelistic programme.

MISS LILA M. CORBETT has just received the news of the death of her father, the REV. FRED W. CORBETT of Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Corbett was a Methodist minister for more than 45 years and for many years has been very prominent in temperance work. Although approaching his 76th birthday he was active to the end. In recent years he has been a member of the City Council in Lansing and has been very active in social and relief work. Most of his ministry was in the Michigan Conference. We extend our sympathy to Miss Corbett in her bereavement.

PALEMBANG, SUMATRA.

A good many people have only heard about Palembang from others, but have never visited the city. However at least six people know more about it now than they did a few weeks ago.

Our first visitors were Bishop and Mrs. Lee. It had been a little over five years since the Bishop had been here and this was Mrs. Lee's first visit. The evening of their arrival the different congregations united in giving them a reception and a hundred or more gathered to welcome our guests. On Sunday the Bishop preached for both our Chinese and Malay congregations, and in the evening he spoke to the American congregation at Soengei Gerong.

A great many changes have taken place during the past five years. Streets have been widened and greatly improved; a water system installed and at Soengei Gerong, 9 miles from the city there has emerged from a swampy marsh a beautiful settlement, housing many of the American and Dutch employees of the Standard Oil Company, and close by a large oil refinery producing from 25,000 to 30,000 barrels of oil a day.

For four days the Bishop and the missionary travelled over South Sumatra by train, auto and auto bus, visiting outstations and other towns where now there is no religious work being done, but where work could be started with a little financial help. In certain sections of South Sumatra large numbers of emigrants from Java are settling and clearing the jungle. Many thousands of these people have come here during the past two or three years. We should have a Francis Asbury with his horse and saddle bags filled with good literature to make contacts with these new people in a new land. The Bishop was greatly impressed with the opportunities for service and we trust that before long, it will be possible to place several more workers in this needy field.

Following the visit of these distinguished visitors, there came two lady missionaries, Miss Corbett and Miss Royce, teachers in our Girls' Schools in Singapore. They were on their vacation and divided their time between friends in Palembang and Soengei Gerong. We enjoyed their visit and trust that they will come again.

Palembang has a large number of English-speaking young men who are graduates of our local school or of schools in Malaya, who are working for the oil refineries. It is our desire to be of the largest possible service in every way to these young people. For some time we have wanted to have a series of religious services in which the way of the religious life could be presented, for we fully believe that our Christian religion has something which can help to hold and guide young people who naturally meet with many difficulties and temptations in a land where home influences are more or less absent.

Our Epworth League considered ways and means and finally decided to invite the Rev. and Mrs. Yap, Young People's Secretary of the Malaysia Conference, to come and spend a week with us and hold these services. Of course we were to be responsible for their expenses; but how to raise this money was the next question. We finally decided to put on a Pageant. A number of plays were examined but none seemed to be satisfactory. Finally the missionary was asked to write one and the result was a pageant of 5 Acts and 17 scenes, depicting the Life of Joseph, from the time he told his dreams as a boy to the coming of his aged father to live in Egypt. The young people spent many weeks in preparing this pageant and on the night it was given over 300 people crowded the School Hall to witness it. So well was it played that the attention of all was held from the beginning until the end, nearly two hours, and all pronounced it the best ever given by our young people. The receipts were sufficient to meet the transit expenses. Mr. & Mrs. Yap arrived the day before the play, and so Mrs. Yap favoured us with a number of instrumental and vocal solos, which were greatly appreciated by the audience.

Sunday morning the Rev. Yap spoke to the different congregations and the meetings were continued every night during the following week, the speaker using English one evening and Malay the next. All of these services were well attended. He also spoke at two different periods each morning to the upper class pupils in the Day School and each afternoon met with the teachers and religious workers for a discussion of religious problems. We all appreciated the willingness of Mr. & Mrs. Yap in giving up a part of their school vacation to come to Palembang and conduct these services for us. We trust that their work will not have been in vain, but that the seed sown will bring forth fruit, in a better understanding of our Christian living and way of life.

To all of these visitors we extend a hearty welcome to COME AGAIN.

H. C. BOWER.

On Saturday, 15th September, MISS ANG CHAI CHOO, formerly of the staff of the Anglo-Chinese Girls' School, Ipoh, and the sister of Mr. Ang Cheng Hoon of the Mission Treasurer's office, was united in marriage to MR. SOH HUN SWEE of Singapore. The ceremony took place in Wesley Church which had been beautifully decorated with flowers for the occasion. A reception was given on the lawn of the church beside the hall and a large number of friends were present to extend their wishes to the happy couple. They will make their home in Singapore.

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Moral Adventure—B. H. Streeter	.50
Spiritual Healing (A Critical Appreciation)—Spencer and Workman	1.25
The Assurance of Immortality—H. E. Fosdick	.50
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Jesus Christ and World Evangelization—A. McLeish (Missionary Principles: Christ's or Ours)	1.00
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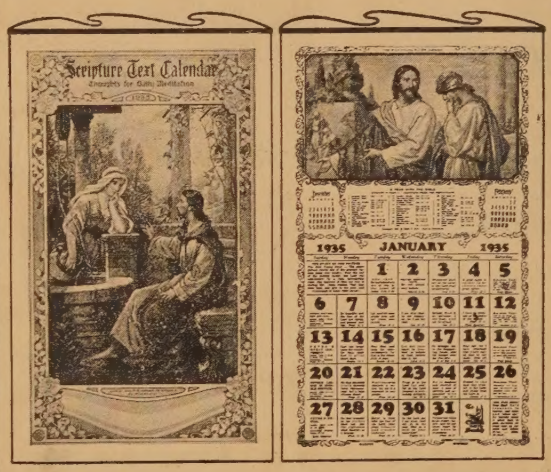

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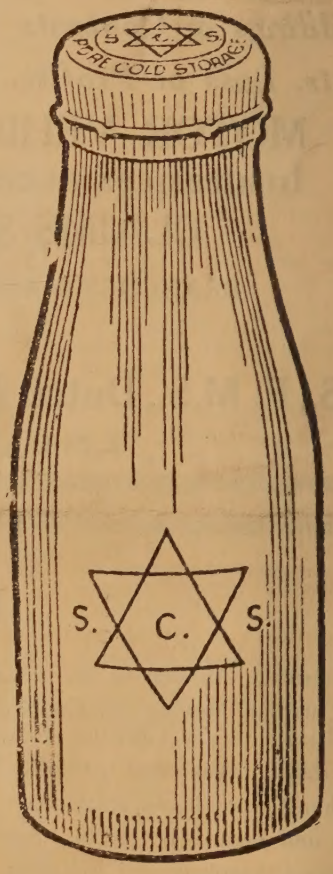

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The Malaysia Message

October 1934. Vol. 44. No. 10

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

The picture on this page, of the International Friendship League, M.B.S., Medan, is a telling witness of the growth of an international mind in our schools. Here are boys who have joined a league of youth, whose purpose it is to promote friendship between the young people of different nationalities throughout the world. The medium of correspondence is the English language, not as a requirement but as a matter of practical convenience. Not only do these boys have the training and pleasure of corresponding with boys in foreign countries, but they learn through their exchange of letters much about foreign countries which serves to enlarge sympathy and understanding. There are thousands of boys in England and America who would be happy to have the privilege of corresponding with school boys and teachers of Malaya and Sumatra. For those school principals or teachers who would like to start similar projects with their own pupils, write to Rev. N. T. Gottschall, Principal, Methodist Boys School, Medan. Such projects might help to stimulate vital interest in English composition. We shall be glad to print in the Malaysia Message some of the best letters received.

HOW CAN YOUTH CONTRIBUTE TO THE REALIZATION OF A UNIVERSAL RELIGION?

The New History Society, 132 East 65 Street, New York City, is opening a competition to the entire youth of Asia and of the islands surrounding for papers to be written on the subject "How can Youth Contribute to the Realization of a Universal Religion" with the offer of three prizes of $300, $200 and $100 gold each. The papers dealing with this subject are to be original compositions not to exceed 2,000 words in length. Every young man and woman of Asia not over 30 years of age is invited to compete. The Board of Judges consisting of eminent editors, authors and ministers has been appointed to read and judge the manuscripts submitted. The competition opens August 1st 1934 and closes March 1st 1935, between which dates the papers are to be received at the office of the New History Society.

No doubt there are many young people of Malaysia who will be interested and who would like to compete in this contest. For further details write to the Editor of the Malaysia Message who will be glad to supply the necessary application blanks together with a statement of the conditions of the contest. The Malaysia Message will also be glad to open its pages to contributions on this subject.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The Malaysia Message

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PAUL B. MEANS

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THE FUNCTION OF OUR SCHOOLS

Our schools with their enrolment of some seventeen thousand boys and girls, scattered as they are throughout Malaysia, have a wonderful mission to perform. It is their task out of the raw material of to-day to build the new Malaysia of tomorrow. It is their function not only to reflect the civilization of the past or to pass on the torch of learning to the present but to be one of the moving and creative forces of the future. The ideals of our schools to-day are the realities of our society tomorrow, for the life of the class room is a minature of the life of the larger community to be. The task of the school therefore is one of construction as well as of instruction; of learning as well as of teaching; of discovering the new as well as of preserving the old.

What an army of youth these schools embrace! What a precious heritage of culture these young people bring, it may be from China, from India or from the background of Malaysia! What traditions of religion, of language, or art and of custom! What a variety of cultural strains is meeting in our class rooms and on the play grounds; the sons and daughters of the Middle Kingdom with their thousands of years heritage of culture and learning, now vibrant and flushed with the new ambition of youth and independence; the children of Hindustan, the mother of oriental philosophy and religion, the cultural pillar of Asia, long the centre of the age-old quest to find God and to realize Him, now stirred by a new quest of the spirit; the native sons and daughters of these tropical garden isles who themselves bring an honourable tradition of literature, music, art and religion, now turning with enthusiasm to receive the cultural heritage of the West. Thus are these different strains of culture being mingled, a giving and a taking, the sharing of the best one with another in spirit of reverence, open mindedness and truth.

And yet what a need there is for these schools! How many pupils lifted out of miserable poverty-stricken homes find in these schools the gate of hope and the door to the abundant life. The school at once becomes the model of cleanliness, the place of recreation, a centre of friendliness, the source of inspiration and of light. Perhaps with the parents it is the opportunity for economic betterment which is the first consideration and which makes every sacrifice seem worthwhile. But with the pupil it is soon the friendly atmosphere and the Christian spirit of the school which begins to make its impression and to become incarnate in the lives of the pupils.

What a melting pot with so many different kinds of ore! What possibilities for a rich amalgam which shall mingle and unite these different strains in a firm bond of labour and of love. What a vision the school community holds for the future, where nothing human is foreign, where tolerance and respect for personality is the law and where everyone is transfigured in the glory of the divine.

God grant that our schools may not destroy but fulfil, that they may not vandalize but energize the cultural talents of these youth committed to their charge. May Christ come into our midst with his genial spirit of benediction and hope guiding us in the endeavour of learning to appreciate these gifts of God which our young people bring in such abundance.

PRAYER BY TOYOHIKO KAGAWA

Dear Father of all Mankind:

We pray for the peace of the Orient, for the peace of the whole world. May every individual be humble before Thee, and every nation be repentant so that every individual and nation may walk in Thy way. Cleanse us and forgive our sins, and especially forgive our Japanese sins against China. O Lord, have mercy on Japan, open the eyes of the nation in Japan. Show them the peace of the world. And show light to the war lords in China, so that they shall have an unanimous agreement to have a real state in China and a peaceful nation. Bless Great Britain, France and Russia, that great nation. Open their eyes and bring peace in Northern Europe. Bless the President of the United States. O Lord, we ask Thee, unless we have the Holy Spirit fill the different races, the world will not see real peace. Capture us for Thy cause, crush our selfishness, remold us, recreate us for Christian character.

TO OUR MALAYAN FRIENDS AT HOME

I am sure you are interested in the programme for the coming year of Jubilee in honour of our fifty years of Methodism in Malaya.

In connection with the Historical Pageant, I have been asked to work up a pictorial exhibition of the growth of Methodism in Malaya. I can only do this with your co-operation and help.

Will each one of you consider this as a personal opportunity to have a part in the Jubilee by sending at once pictures showing the different phases of the work, people, and country with which you were associated while here in Malaya. We also shall appreciate it very much if you will send one of your recent photographs, or wherever possible family groups.

To insure no picture getting lost, kindly follow these directions:

(a) Write on the back of the picture (1) your name and address, (2) place and date of picture, (3) number each picture.

(b) Mount each picture on a piece of paper (fastening only the upper corners). Just below the picture write its number and as full a description as possible.

If you are in America kindly send your pictures to:—

Rev. W. T. Cherry,
Methodist Manse,
Ridley Park, Philadelphia, Pa. U.S.A.

If you are in England, will you please send your pictures to:—

Mrs. Wm. H. Horley,
2 Alyth Gardens,
Golders Green,
London, N.W. 11.

I have asked these friends to forward all pictures to me so that they will reach Malaya by 15th December.

Sincere thanks for your contributions and co-operation. You may rest assured that every precaution will be taken to see that no harm comes to any of your pictures and that they will be returned to you.

We wish it would be possible for you to be with us for our Jubilee Conference but if this is impossible your picture will help to remind us of you and the part you took in making Methodist History in Malaya.

E. Stella Cass,
74 Maxwell Road,
Penang, S.S.

K. L. Methodist Programme.

Notices of Services of Methodist Churches at Kuala Lumpur as published in *The Malay Mail*, Friday, September 21, 1934.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WESLEY CHURCH, PETALING HILL.

Union Worship Service (E) .. .. 9.00 a.m.
Speaker: The Rev. D. H. Yap, M.A., B.D.

Union Church School (E) .. .. 9.00 a.m.
Evening Worship Service .. .. 6.00 p.m.
Speaker: The Rev. W. A. Schurr, M.A.

CHINESE (CAN.-HAK.) CHURCH, PETALING HILL.

Union Church School (C) .. .. 9.00 a.m.
Worship Service (C) .. .. .. 10.30 a.m.
Speaker: The Rev. Yau Yee San.

Thursday—
Home Prayer Meeting .. .. .. 7.00 p.m.

TAMIL CHURCH, MALACCA STREET.

Sunday School .. .. 8.30 a.m.
Worship Service .. .. .. 9.45 a.m.
Preacher: The Rev. J. J. Kovilpillai.

Seaport Estate Service .. .. .. 4.00 p.m.
Epworth League Devotional .. .. 5.00 p.m.
Speaker: Mr. S. Kanagaratnam.

Tuesday—
Brickfields Road Service .. .. 9.00 p.m.

CHINESE (DOWNTOWN) CHURCH, MALACCA STREET.

Sunday School (Mandarin and Hokkien) 11.30 a.m.
Worship Service (Mandarin and Hokkien) .. .. 12.00 noon.

Speaker: The Rev. D. H. Yap, M.A., B.D.

Thursday—
Midweek Prayer Service (Mandarin and Hokkien) .. .. 7.00 p.m.

TAMIL CHURCH, SENTUL.

Sunday School .. .. 8.00 a.m.
Worship Service .. .. .. 9.00 a.m.
Speaker: The Rev. N. G. Manickam.

Epworth League Devotional .. .. 5.30 p.m.
Speaker: Mr. J. W. David.

New School and Church, Tampin.

TAMPIN DEDICATION

The new Methodist Episcopal Church at Tampin, Negri Sembilan, was dedicated by Bishop Edwin F. Lee at an impressive service held on the 26th August. A large congregation and many visitors were there to assist in the dedication. Rev. Lim Hong Ban, District Superintendent, and the pastor, Mr. Wong Eng Leong, besides a number of visiting pastors, assisted in the service. Special music was contributed by the Jasin Church choir and Madame Kam Sin Hua. Following the dedication service refreshments were served.

Four years ago Mr. Wong Eng Leong was struggling to keep together a small church which held its services in a shop house. Through his ceaseless efforts and faith and courage a fine congregation has been built up which now has the joy of having a fine church building.

The Tampin church is unusual in several respects. One is its very fine location in the centre of the town facing the Padang yet far enough off the main road not to be troubled by street noises. Another is its construction. Because of its assured quiet the church was built with walls of wood up about five feet and from there on of expanded metal. Such a building is, of course, very airy and will be the envy of some of our churches which do not enjoy the passing breezes. The building is divided in the middle by folding doors which make it possible to open the two rooms into one when the size of the congregation warrants it. During the week Mr. Wong Eng Leong and his wife both teach in a Mandarin school of which the enrolment is nearly 80. Thus the new building is in use every day of the week. The Tampin church is a fine addition to the list of Methodist churches throughout Malaya.

SPECIAL MEETINGS AT THE TELUK AYER M. E. CHURCH, SINGAPORE

By the Rev. Hong Han Keng, Pastor.

From September 13th to 16th inclusive the Rev. Egon N. Ostrom, of Sumatra, preached in the above mentioned church each evening at 7:30 o'clock in the Hokkien dialect to large and appreciative audiences. The members and friends of that congregation were greatly benefited by these services. They were especially pleased to hear a missionary preach in their language with such ease and ability as Mr. Ostrom exhibited. His subjects were fittingly chosen with a view to the needs of this church, emphasizing the necessity of our following the commands of God rather than the customs of men. Those who have been perplexed over the apparent conflict of loyalties in the home and church were greatly helped.

Another result of the meetings which is worthy of note was revealed in the remarks made by some of the young people who do not understand Chinese so well. When they saw how well a European could speak their dialect they decided that, as Chinese, they must now put forth special effort to become more proficient in the use of their own dialect of Chinese.

Special music for these services was provided by Mrs. Archer and a number of the girls from Fairfield School and Nind Home. At the service Sunday evening a duet was rendered by Mr. Ngo Poh Cho and his sister. This selection was much appreciated by the congregation. It is also worthy of note that at the closing service Sunday evening there were present many representatives from the other Chinese speaking congregation of our church in the city.

Rev. Egon Ostrom of Tebing Tinggi, Sumatra, who is now conducting special services in our Chinese churches of Malaya.

THE DEVOTIONAL LIFE

H. B. A.

SUFFERING AND RELIGION:

"Wherever souls are being tried and ripened, in whatever commonplace and homely ways, there God is hewing out the pillars for his temple."—BROOKS.

"I hold that life is good,
That all it brings of loss and gain,
Of grief and joy, pleasure and pain
Is for the soul's uplift.
I hold that peace is born of strife,
That death is minister to life."

—THOMAS CURTIS CLARK.

Readings: The Book of Job gives us much light on this question of pain and suffering and sorrow. Read chapters 1 and 2. The Book of Job seems to have been written to prove that suffering may serve an entirely different purpose from that of punishing a man for his sins,—that the best men may be called upon to suffer the greatest of afflictions, that suffering patiently met and endured, may be the means of developing the strongest possible character. How one admires Job when after all he has suffered he can still say, *"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him."*—13:15. And again in 23:10 where he says, *"When he hath finished trying me, I shall come forth as gold."* One really should read all of it but if you do not have time then read 14:71-6; 19:25-7; 23:16; 31:1. Job's challenge to God runs through chapters 38, 39, 40, 41. In 42 we see how he triumphs.

"For all your days prepare,
And meet them ever alike;
When you are the anvil, **bear—**
When you are the hammer, **strike**!"

—EDWIN MARKHAM.

"The miller said that there were seventeen sieves through which the ground wheat passed before it came out below pure and white and fine in the shape of flour. The miller said that every one of the seventeen sieves was necessary to give the flour that fineness and whiteness for which his mill was famous. Less than that number of sieves would leave the flour a little too coarse and not absolutely white. Every one of the sieves took out something from the flour that was not desirable and that kept it from reaching the standard that the miller set for his flour.

How many lives there are that have passed though great tribulations and have come out white and pure! How hard it seems at the time of their severe trials, and how much we pity them because their lot is worse than ours! But how we wonder at them in the end and desire to be like them!"

Readings: In the New Testament read John 9:1-4. Carefully study Jesus' answer. Read also Luke 13:1-5. While it is perfectly true that much of the sorrow and pain in the world is caused directly or indirectly by sin, Jesus finds a disciplinary value in suffering. *"It was fitting to make the captain of our salvation perfect through suffering."* Read Luke 22:39-46.

"Who never ate with tears his bread,
Nor, through the long-drawn midnight hours
Sat weeping on his lonely bed,—
He knows you not, ye heavenly powers."

"Sorrows humanize our race. Tears are the showers that fertilize the world." "Sorrows are our best educators. A man can see further **through tears** than through a telescope." "Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seamed with scars; martyrs have put on their coronation robes glittering with fire, and through their tears have the sorrowful first seen the gates of heaven." "God sometimes washes the eyes of his children with tears that they may read **aright** his providence and his commandments."

Gleanings from the Bible:—

"He gave them their request;
But sent leanness into their souls."—*Ps.* 106:15

"If we suffer we shall also reign with him."—*II Tim.* 2:12.

"Blessed are ye that weep now; for ye shall laugh."—*Luke* 6:21.

"They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow, and sighing shall flee away."—*Isa.* 35:10.

"Thou hast tried me as silver is tried."—*Ps.* 66:10.

"I will try them as gold is tried."—*Zech.* 13:9.

"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people."—*Isa.* 40:1.

"All things work together for good to them that love God."—*Rom.* 8:28.

"These are they that came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth upon the throne shall dwell among them."—*Rev.* 7:14, 15.

THE BOYS BRIGADE

"Remember Now Thy Creator In The Days Of Thy Youth."

By J. McNeish.

Camp Scene.

TO write the story of the Boys Brigade after so much has been seen of it in Singapore seems like painting a picture for the second time only this picture never will fade. The motto is so grand that it never will lose its strength and the movement goes on. A movement with such a motto could not help but have ideals which would be of the grandest. The object is, "The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness," and the motto "Sure and Stedfast."

In the year 1883 a certain Sunday School Superintendent was faced with the problem of holding boys who had turned 11 years of age. You know what it is with a boy who thinks himself a man and how he does not like going to Sunday School with boys smaller than himself. That was the position this Superintendent had to face. He himself was a very keen volunteer and knew what discipline meant with a crowd, so he hit upon the happy idea of combining the work of the Sunday School with discipline as he knew it.

It was in an extremely poor district of Glasgow that the first Company was formed and as no uniforms could be got at once the original Company, the first that ever existed, paraded with a little red rosette as their mark of distinction. William Alexander Smith with two other gentlemen and some thirty boys formed the beginning of this movement which has spread throughout the whole World and is such a power for good to-day. Their aim was, and still is "The Advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys, and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline and Self-Respect, and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness."

Other men in a similar position to W. A. Smith took up the idea and in three years there were sixty one Companies in and around Glasgow. When the men at the head of these Companies saw how the movement was spreading they got together and set out the most distinguished uniform a boy can wear; The little pill box cap, the brown belt and the white haversack.

There comes a time in every man's life when he must make his life's decision of some sort, and the man who is most admired is he who can make his decision and is not afraid to stand by it. W. A. Smith had a very well established business in Glasgow, and he was driven between his business and this ever-growing movement.—The B. B. His business was growing and required his attention more; The Boys Brigade was growing and required more attention. This was the decision he had to make, his business or the B. B.

Typical of the man he was, he decided for the B. B. and gave over the running of his business to his sons and put himself at the head of this now World wide movement. What did his decision mean? What is the result of that decision? It means that to-day there is not a clime or coast you can set foot on, but has, either a Company of the B. B. or men who are proud of having been in its ranks. The movement has spread from that day in 1883 to now when we have Companies in Canada, India, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, West Indies, Ceylon, Newfoundland, U.S.A., China, Latvia, Denmark, and now in Malaya.

A Ship in Sight

It goes without saying that such work as W. A. Smith had done among boys was bound to receive recognition in some way or other and in 1909 the greatest compliment that could be paid to any organization was paid to the B. B. when King Edward VII made our great leader a Knight.

The fact that our Founder had been made a Knight did not stop him in his great work, it made him work harder and as he spent all his life in the cause, he died in it.

At a B. B. council meeting in 1914 he was taken ill and it was a great blow to the B. B. when we were told that our Founder had passed on "Sure and Steadfast."

I had the opportunity of being at the funeral of Sir William Alexander Smith and no man ever had more homage paid to him than he had. The city of Glasgow was a city of mourning, B. B. boys lined the streets and there were boys from every boy's organization there also. The five-foot ways were lined with thousands of people, shopkeepers and house owners drew their blinds in respect to a man who will never be forgotten.

To come to Singapore, about five years ago we started the B. B. in this city, and, incidentally, as Sir William Smith started in 1883 with the help of other two gentlemen and some thirty boys, three gentlemen started here. We have gone on steadily and to-day we have almost 200 boys in uniform. We have had a hard fight, and a certain element has accused us of teaching military ideas to the youth of Malaya. This is ridiculous. Our aim and object is still the same; the development of all that tends towards a greater and cleaner manhood. We use everything and anything with that ideal. Our Bible class comes first, then we have Indian Clubs, Bar Bells, Fencing, Physical Training, Swimming, Signalling and everything a boy wants for a cleaner body and a better mind.

There are now six companies running in Singapore; at Presbyterian Mission, Prinsep Street; Kampong Kapor Church, Cuff Road; Chinese Continuation School, Coleman Street; Geylang Methodist Church, Aljunied Road; Choon Guan School, Katong; Paya Lebar Methodist Mission. There is room for any boy who wants to be a member and a place for any man who has the interest of boys at heart to become an officer.

We have passed our fiftieth mile stone in a blaze of glory. A greater number of milestones have still to be passed.

Then follow still our Captain's will
The order of the day.
"The Kingdom will advance!"
One and all obey.

Malayan Delegates to Glasgow Jubilee.

OUR AMERICAN LETTER

WHEN one has nothing else to write or talk about, it is always in order to talk or write about the weather. "Nice day," we say to one another when we meet and can think of nothing more to say. Where the weather is uniform, as in Malaya, there is not much to be said either for or against it. But when my monthly letter of not many weeks ago spoke of beautiful snow effects on bush and tree, and when to-day I write with the thermometer at 98 degrees, in tropical clothing, and with the perspiration trickling down my face and neck, the weather becomes a live issue. There are no fans or punkahs in our churches, and few of them, if any, have yet taken to air-conditioning, which is rapidly becoming the vogue and will soon be adopted in private dwellings as it already has been in trains, theatres, hotels, and other buildings. So we shall be thinking of you, dear Malayans, as we combine inspiration and perspiration in our worship this week. We have become accustomed to the daily roar of airplanes over our heads, to the strains of music emanating from automobiles as they whiz by, to the annual, monthly, daily casualty statistics of the motor age in which we live, to the liquor advertisements and blandishments, so if Philadelphia should turn hot, and Singapore cold, for a change——well, "turn about is fair play."

THE MOST exciting development along moral lines during the past few weeks has been the nation-wide boycott of the moving picture theatres, and of all films whether good or bad, until the promotors and exhibitors cease exhibiting unfit pictures. It did not take long for the exhibitors to start squealing long and loud. At last a method seems to have been found to make them "sit up and take notice.' Appeals to decency, pleas for the 23,000,000 young people under twenty-one years of age who attend motion-pictures weekly, and protests by the Christian press, went disregarded except for courteous but empty promises. But when the Roman Catholic Church organised "The Legion of Decency," and commended it not only to its own twenty million members, but promptly found it endorsed by the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, the movie producers and exhibitors came to life——and pain. As such a far-reaching move can not fail to be reported to you through the secular press——for it is real news——I need not give details here. The leadership of the present movement is such as to inspire confidence that this time something effective will really be done to curb the poisoning of the minds of our youth by an industry capable of infinite good.

AN AMBASSADOR OF ILL WILL. Some four or five years ago, Delaware Country (where the writer lives) was a stranger to the so-called Japanese beetle. His reputation, however preceded him, for hearing of his approach the authorities stationed sentries on every road leading into this country from any neighbourhood where Mr. Japanese Beetle had set up in business. These sentries confiscated everything in the shape of vegetable life. It was a futile gesture. Mr. Beetle, hearing of what a nice place the County is, of its choice flowers and juicy vegetables, its edible trees and succulent grapevines, bowed politely to the sentries, and came right in. We do not know the origin of his name, or whether his ancestors ever saw Japan, but we do know that he has an appetite as voracious as that of the locusts whom Moses released upon cantankerous Egypt, and that the Egyptians wilted when they saw them coming. The beetle eats the foliage of a cherry tree for breakfast, dines at noon on the tender petals of rose bushes and hollyhocks, and sups at eventide upon grapevines. But if his favorite diet is not at hand, he eats almost anything green. It is not yet known whether he intends to become domiciled as an American citizen. If he does, our sympathies go out to coming generations. In the meantime, not wishing to be discourteous to our destructive guest, we regale him upon various lethal fluids ranging from gasolene to plain fly-killer, lovingly sprayed all over his sheeny coat. Next time we pass by we observe that he is enjoying a deep slumber, with all his feet pointing skyward.

I wish we could dispose of all our troubles as easily, especially those that prey upon missionary budgets.
Ridley Park, Pa., U.S.A., July 21, 1934.

W. T. CHERRY.

If you notice a peculiar tang to this month's American Letter, lay it to the fact that we are "at the shore" as we write. The Atlantic coast from the locality where the Hudson River enters it with greetings from New York, to the locality where the Delaware River flows into it with salutations from Philadelphia, is the seafront of the State of New Jersey. I have not seen all of it, but the many miles and places that I have seen indicate it is one of America's greatest playgrounds——not so much for millionaires with imposing mansions, but with rentals and bungalows for the average citizen of moderate means. If in thought one adds the immense stretches of coast northward, and the immensely popular resorts of Florida and other southern coasts, and then the vast reaches along the Pacific, it is a safe guess that the number of Americans to be found "at the shore" while the season lasts run into the millions.

WHILE HERE, I have been reading some issues of The Straits Budget and the Administration Reports of a few of the Protected States. It is good to notice the unmistakable upward trend in trade; and one needs only to see the figures year by year since before the slump, to realize how terrible was the decline, and how welcome are the first year's figures indicative of a return to better days. I purposely avoided the expression "return to normalcy"—there is no such thing. The past will never return nor do we want it to return. But God grant that whether we have more, or less, of so-called prosperity, we may learn the lessons of those bitter days, and walk humbly before Him. I wish I could add that such is the tendency here. If it is, the evidences are not conspicuous. There are far too many unemployed, bankrupt, improverished people for the tone to be one of easy confidence yet.

THE CHURCHES will have to build many of their enterprises new from the ground up. The liberal financial support accorded to foreign missions, for instance, will not just slip back into the old grooves either in amount or in conviction of its imperative importance. The enforced changes on the field in the direction of local self-support and economy, though painful in undertaking, will eventually prove to be positive and great gains both to the home and the foreign interests. Station letters come to me from China, Japan, India and Malaya, appealing for the support by individual gifts of their work, which has been thrown back, sometime wholly, upon local resources. How these letters hurt as they tug at our heart strings! How we wish we had the means to respond liberally! But they arrive in the face of similar conditions crippling the churches here at home. Do not think we are not interested: we are just reduced, like yourselves, to meager resources.

W. T. CHERRY

Ridley Park, Pa. 20 August 1934.

We quote the following from a letter received from Mrs. Glion T. Benson, New Britain, Connecticut: "I spend much time looking for good stories and I like the ones from the Children's Page of the Malaysia Message. I enclose $1.00 and I wonder whether you could have someone tear out the Children's Page from some old copies (if you have any) and send them along. I appreciate the stories greatly and can use them in both day school and Sunday school work. Why doesn't your Children's Page Editor gather several stories together and publish them as 'Children's Sermons' or if you want to send me a good collection, perhaps I can get them published."

Finding God Through Worship

II. PREPARATION FOR THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP

By J. Hastie Odgers,

Pastor, First Methodist Episcopal Church, River Forest, Ill.

LET us prepare for the service of worship! A preparation of the mind and heart is necessary. We must cherish the mood! Weymouth renders Revelation 1. 10—"In the Spirit I found myself on the day of the Lord." Thus he saw—the holy city, the crystal sea, the throne of God.

That our worship may be creative, let us prepare! And first there is the *sanctuary* itself—its cleanliness, order, and beauty. There is the *minister* who dominates the service. How significant his bearing and spirit. In dress, in manner, in action he becomes a sanctuary. Supremely he is a worshipper, not a director. His very entrance may be significant. He is not "cumbered with much serving." The Scripture, the hymns, the prayers are not only planned, but marked. In the service he is all that his people ought to be. He is an example and an inspiration.

As the minister is supremely a worshipper, so is the *choir*. Its musical contribution may be fine. But more than that! Ideally the choir consists of Christian people, and its first contribution is fellowship in worship. After that, and not before, it is a group of singers, with a worshipful musical contribution to make. The choir's preparation of heart, as well as voice, is not easy to attain. Having entered the sanctuary, there is no conversation, no passing of music or book, no display by the director.

The congregation, too, comprises a people who have come for prayer. Every one is a worshipper who has made preparation, which preparation transforms the entire service—transfigures it. To achieve this is most difficult. Saturday half holidays and late evening parties do not assist us to make a thoughtful use of Sunday. If the service of worship is to do its best for us, we must meet it at our best. How significant for children, youth, adults, that we pause long enough and by conversation, serious reading, and prayer we may obtain an outlook on life through the eyes of Christ. With such preparation will come upon the individual and the entire congregation a longing for divine communion.

"How sweet to enter in
To kneel and pray
With all the others
Whom we love so well."

Wesley Church, Ipoh

IPOH PASTORS' SCHOOL

The Annual Chinese Pastor's School and the Annual Tamil Pastor's School for Malaya met concurrently this year on the lovely Mission compound at Ipoh from the 4th through the 11th September.

We were the guests of the two local churches and the Rev. Moi Poh Peng and the Rev. Fred David proved themselves to be unexcelled hosts. The situation in Ipoh is almost ideal for such schools. The men and faculty were housed in the Horley Hall and the Mission residence and the devotional meetings and classes were held in the Wesley Church and the Anglo-Chinese School building. Although the two schools met at the same time, all of their meetings and classes were held separately due to differences in language.

The programme of the schools was modelled on similar programmes of the past, this being the eighth time that these schools have met. The Rev. Egon Ostrom of Tebing Tinggi, Sumatra, came over and taught in Hokkien in the Chinese school and in English in the Tamil school. The Rev. T. M. Kurien of Penang, who has recently returned from America after having finished his University and Seminary work there, taught in the Tamil school. The Rev. Paul B. Means, who likewise has just recently returned from leave, taught in both schools. The Rev. S. S. Pakianathan, who has co-operated in the organizing and teaching end of the Tamil schools from the very start, led a discussion group. The Rev. Andrew Chen, who has taught as a member of the faculty in the Chinese School since 1928, was with us again. The Rev. Abel Eklund, District Superintendent, the Dean of the School and others took part in the evening services of worship.

On two afternoons the Pastors were taken by their hosts to visit the famous cave temples of Ipoh and also to have a swim in the hot springs. One day Mr. and Mrs. Ayathurai of Ipoh entertained all the Tamil Pastors and faculty to a most delicious curry tiffin.

One of the outstanding evening services of worship was a Kalachepham conducted by Mr. Zacharias of the Tamil Church of Penang. His singing was accompanied by a Tamil Lyric Orchestra composed of members of the Tamil school. On the last evening of the school sessions we all met for a dinner in Horley Hall and had a very good time together.

These schools mean a great deal to our pastors. When we consider that they come from Singapore in the south and from as far north as Kedah and as far east as Pahang, and as far west as Sumatra, and that this is really the only time in the year that our Asiatic pastors have a chance to get together for study and inspiration and fellowship, one can understand its value. These schools, during the eight years of their existence, have served in a very fine way to bind our men together in bonds of fellowship and a common task. They have been able to visit a great many of the churches in the outstations and thus to know personally much about the problems that each pastor faces. They have also become conversant with the needs and the opportunities of the various sections of

Tamil Pastors, at the Ipoh School

Malaya. It was a pleasure to visit the dormitories after dinner at night and find the men sitting together thoroughly enjoying each other's fellowship and in the Tamil group to find them gathered about a small orchestra singing the interesting and lovely Tamil lyrics.

On Saturday evening Mr. Means showed some lantern slides depicting the Home Missionary work among the Sakais in the Cameron Highlands. We also had the privilege at this time to hear from the Rev. S. S. Pakianathan the president of the Home Missionary Society and from Mr. Sianturi, one of our Batak teachers to the Sakais.

The Chinese Pastors

In the discussion hour, which was held every day in both classes, papers were read concerning the past, present and future of our Chinese and Tamil work. These papers were very provocative, ably presented and on some days the debate over the questions which arose was very vigorous. The forty-two pastors who attended these classes have a good background to help their people prepare for the coming Jubilee celebrations of the Methodist Church in Malaya.

H. B. Amstutz, Dean.

PALEMBANG LEGENDS

By Marion Royce.

When you visit Palembang, plan your trip up the Sungei Moesi on a moonlight night. Then you will enter the river in the evening and it may happen that you will see the first Malay village against the rich colours of sunset, while a pale full moon hangs in rosy clouds opposite.

A shrill whistle startles one as the steamer passes a green island and follows a dangerous bend in the stream. There is no answer from the mysterious isle. Why give the salute? Many many years ago, the legend says, a K.P.M. steamer wished to ascend to Palembang. The Malay Pilot would not sail through the mist but the Captain assumed responsibility and began the trip. When they neared this island on which a holy man lived, the Malay pilot said, "Salute". "Why should I?" replied the captain. As they rounded the island a terrific lightning storm struck, splintering the mast and wrecking the ship. The company investigated the cause of the disaster and ordered that a salute be given in the future. Native prahus going up the river drop sacrifices of fruit over the side of the boat as they hail the spirit of the island.

"Palembang is the Venice of the East," murmurs a friend as the lights of the floating city appear. "Palembang is the home of monkeys and not worth visiting" groans the misanthrope at hand. Our friend takes us in a sampan softly past the floating houses. No Venetian sleeps as these people, lulled by the gently flowing stream, nor does he move his home to chain it close to friends along the shore.

When our sampan approaches the wharf before the Governor's mansion we feel quite prepared to accept the legend associated with that spot. Our friend assures us that it is written in the Dutch annals that the wharf was once used by a holy Haji. This man lived on an island up the river but came daily to the Mosque. One day the Governor was standing on the wharf as the holy man left. "Are there many fish in the river, Haji?" he inquired. "Yes, Tuan, wherever there is water there are fish". "No, that is not always true, Haji." The holy man held firmly to his statement. "Bring a coconut," commanded the Governor. "There is water in this coconut, Haji, will we find fish in it?" "Yes, you will, Tuan." The servant split the coconut and to their amazement two tiny fish were swimming in the water of the coconut.

We hail a taxi and drive slowly past the fort. Formerly these white walls protected the palace of the Malay Sultans but now we see through the gate the homes of the Dutch officers. "No eggs!" You might say that the wall was built by that slogan. Malay tradition reports that the people were not allowed to eat eggs for many years because the shells and whites of the eggs were used in making this mighty wall.

The wall seems symbolic of the power of custom. We find shelter under ancient customs, as the Palembang women find protection beneath their huge basket shaped hats. Legend informs us that once upon a time a sultan took all the beautiful girls and women into his harem. In self defense the ladies hid their charms beneath this shadowy head piece. Of course, it is also very useful in a land of fierce sun and sudden rainstorms, for its dimensions are those of a good-sized umbrella.

FORGET AND REMEMBER

Forget each kindness that you do
As soon as you have done it;
Forget the praise that falls to you
The moment you have won it.
Forget the slander that you hear
Before you can repeat it;
Forget each slight, each spite, each sneer,
Wherever you may meet it.

Remember every kindness done
To you, whate'er its measure;
Remember every kindness done
And pass it on with pleasure;
Remember every promise made,
And keep it to the letter;
Remember those who lend you aid,
And be a grateful debtor.

OUR SCHOOLS

H.S.O.

To Our Readers: The Editor-in-Chief says he will give us all the space we want! So in future we shall be pleased to print any short contributions from our students on any subject of interest. We shall be happy to have photos of students who have done well in any school activity—a sort of "Youth's Roll of Honour" will be published. Send your contributions early to me at the A.C.S., Malacca.

Do You Know That—

Mr. Poh Kim Seng this year's champion athlete of Malaya is an old boy of the Kuala Lumpur M.B.S? And this honour is not the first to the credit of our mission school, for Mr. K. Vythilingam, another old boy of the same school, was athletic champion for 1927, 1929 and 1930.

In order to complete this list let me mention only two other names, Mr. A. S. Samuel the un-crowned Malayan badminton champion and his brother A. L. Henry, Malaya's Best Footballer—still again old boys of the Kuala Lumpur M.B.S.

Whom will you nominate for honour next month?

THE PENANG ANGLO-CHINESE CONTINUATION SCHOOL held its first annual sports on Saturday, 4th August, on the Suffolk ground, Ayer Itam Road and favoured with ideal weather, the meet turned out an unqualified success. An excellent programme of events was gone through without a hitch. Keen competition prevailed and every one of the competitors did justice to his house. Baughman House was the champion House with 96½ points, thus winning the shield presented by Mr. Lee Soon Peng. Pykett House was second with 90 points, while West House was third with 81 points and Toomey House with 36½ points was fourth. The Class I Champion Athlete was Phang Wai San of Pykett House who came out first in four events and annexed three of the challenge cups. Yap Ewe Kee of Baughman House was the Class II Champion Athlete and he won the trophy presented by Luang Bhasa Bhiraj, the Siamese Consul. At the conclusion of the Sports, Mr. Khoo Cheng Hoe, the headmaster in a brief speech thanked the donors of the challenge Cups and the visitors. Dr. L. Proebstel, being called to make a speech said that he felt sure that the boys had not done badly in the Sports but for a little training the Continuation School might compete in the inter-schools Sports next year for the Glugor Shield with a possibility of winning it. Mrs. Bhasa Bhiraj then gave away the trophies and certificates.

A.C.S. Camp, Port Dickson.

THE MEDAN M. B. S.

On the sixteenth of August a debate on the subject "That a woman's place is at home" was held between the seventh standard and Junior Cambridge, four boys representing the former and four girls the latter. The affirmative leader Master Tan Eng Chuan pointed out that women, instead of taking an active part in outside activities, should devote their whole-hearted attention to the development of home and the proper training of children. But the leader for the negative Miss Hiu Kim Choo in an eloquent speech called attention to the significant services rendered to the world by women in various walks of life. The seconders and supporters for the affirmative and negative kept the audience in peals of laughter by various humorous hints in the course of their short talks.

The teachers of M.B.S. and M.G.S. who acted as judges voted in favour of the negative by 9 to 2. The presence of the principal of M.G.S., together with some of the teachers and pupils gave great animation to the debate. Mr. Lim Tiong Tuan deserves our thanks for organising this debate. (—Tan Eng Chuan)

THE ANGLO-CHINESE SCHOOL, KAMPAR

The 11th Annual Athletic Sports was held on Friday 27th July.

Most of the events were run on the team basis which gave every pupil a chance to participate. The programme of 37 events was run off to time without any hitch. Seven of the events were alloted to the girls-pupils and the novel item of "marketing Relay" caused much excitement to the competitors and the amusement of the spectators.

The visitors and officials were as usual entertained to tea in the School Hall which was decorated for the occasion. The Amateur Orchestra of the Kampar Physical Culture Association rendered selections throughout the afternoon and provided music for the "musical chairs"

There was very keen competition amongst the four "Houses" which resulted in a win by a narrow margin of two points for the East House over the South House.

The prizes were distributed by Mrs. T. Runyan who specially came down from Ipoh for the purpose.

The results of the day were as follows:—

1.	Individual Champion, A Division		
	S. Ponnampalam	20	points
	„ Runner-up A Division		
	Khong Kai Mun	9	„
2.	„ Champion B Division		
	Lo Kai Chong	13	„
3.	Team Championship (Girls)		
	1st South House	23	„
	2nd North „	20	„
4.	Team Championship (Class C)		
	1st South House	16	„
	2nd East „	15	„
5.	Team Championship (Primary Boys)		
	1st A Team	26	„
	2nd B „	16	„
6.	Inter-house Championship		
	1st South House	106	„
	2nd East „	104	„
	3rd North „	75	„
	4th West „	57	„

(—Chong Wan Fook)

THE A. C. G. S. IPOH

A musical treat was provided during the first week in August, when Mr. Harold Scott, a talented pianist, played to the girls for over an hour. His explanations of the pieces he played were much appreciated, and made each item more interesting.

Miss Bunce, our Principal, was admitted to the Batu Gajah Hospital on August 14th suffering from an acute attack of malaria. She returned to Ipoh on 28th still looking very weak. We trust she will soon make a complete recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Bell, who recently arrived from America, were welcomed at our school on August 16th when Mr. Bell gave an interesting address, and Mrs. Bell presented the Cambridge certificates gained last December, and also a number of music certificates gained by pupils of Mrs. Munro.

Our congratulations to the successful candidates.

THE EXAMINER'S DESK

The Principal has sent us the following answers found in the papers sent in by boys in the recent tests.

Std. I —The things in my pocket are knife, button, string, and hole.
A buffalo is a fat man.

Std. II —My house has nine idols.
I boil everything in the kitchen.
A Scout puts on his uniform when there is a happy day.

Std. III—Cricket is a dangerous game.
Cricket is solid but football is hollow.
A steamer uses the funnel.
A sailing vessel is a part of the steamer but a steamer is the whole thing.
An apple has a round hole.

Std. V —A zoo is a place where human animals are kept.
The animals in a circus are not complete.
A circus is made of big cloths but a zoo is made of bricks and irons.

(The Macsian, No. 3)

My Pets

I have twelve pets,—three parrots, one dog and eight guinea—pigs. One of the parrots which I named Polly is such darling. He is so tame that I can catch him and put him on my shoulder. When he was not tame we used to tie him up but now we let him go. If you take him away from his cage now he will come back. He seems to like his cage. The other two parrots are wild ones. When you give them their padi, they will fight with one another. The bigger parrot will nearly always win.

Our dog's name is Bobby. He is a nice pet but what a dirty fellow he is! He follows another dog to the sea-side. Bobby is afraid of the sea. So he does not go into deep water. But when the tide is low there is a lot of mud. Then Bobby is not afraid. He follows his friend right into the mud and when he comes you should see him. He is filled with mud. As he is white the mud shows clearly.

Our guinea pigs now number eight. One was born last Sunday. He is all white. He is the smallest of the whole lot of them. We give each of them names. My dog tries to catch them. Once his paw scratched one of the eyes of guinea pigs.

(Ho Guan Lim (Std. III)—The Macsian, No. 3)

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE

D.H.Y.

IPOH UNION EPWORTH LEAGUE

For a small charge of ten cents each the Ipoh Leaguers were treated to an excellent picnic to Chong Seng Heng Gardens. The affair was ably run by Mr. Hector Ritchie, the Fourth Vice-President, and his hardworking assistants. Fifty members turned up at the Anglo-Chinese School where they were conveyed to the Gardens which lie about twenty miles off on the road to Kampar.

When the party arrived it was still drizzling, and the morning was so chilly that it was some time before the braver ones plucked up sufficient courage to make a dip into the icy-cold waters. No sooner was this start made than the others began to plunge in till the Swimming Pool was filled with the cheerful voices of the happy bathers.

The few who found the water too cold remained at the bungalow where they entertained themselves with games, or went over to the adjoining fish pond to have a quiet hour in the sampans.

The time when the picnickers worked their hardest was at 1.00 p.m. at the bungalow when they sat confronted with their rice and curry. After tiffin and a short rest the morning's programme was repeated. Towards 4.00 p.m. they returned from the pool and the pond, and after partaking of a brief tea the party started on the homeward journey.

Low Chooi Beng,
Hon: Secretary.

MALACCA EPWORTH LEAGUE

Under the auspices of the Malacca Epworth League a series of Win-My-Chum Meetings will be held daily from Thursday 18th October to Sunday 21st October, 1934 at 6.30 p.m. at the Methodist Episcopal Church, Kubu Road.

Rev. Preston L. Peach, M.A., Principal of the Methodist Boys' School, Kuala Lumpur, will conduct the meetings.

Special music will be given the League's Choir every evening.

All friends and members are cordially invited to attend.

Signed Goh Choon Eng,
First Vice-President.

PALEMBANG EPWORTH LEAGUE

A series of inspiring sermons was delivered by Rev. D. H. Yap in the school hall in Palembang during the first week of September 1934. In order that the valuable messages should be within the understanding of the non-English speaking population, the sermons were preached in English and in Malay on alternate days. In all those meetings Mrs. Yap contributed many vocal solos full of religious thoughts which were thoroughly appreciated.

On the second day of their arrival, September 1st, a pageant entitled "Joseph" was successfully staged by the leaguers of Palembang, supported by a number of piano and vocal solos on the part of Mrs. Yap. There was a full house, and every item on the programme had its quota of applause.

The talented couple remained in Palembang only for a week, and although the stay was rather a short one the congregations had a good opportunity of deriving much spiritual help and inspiration for guiding them in living up to Christian principles and ideals. Mr. Yap laid considerable stress on the significance for every child of God in the present day to live a clean life. He further emphasized the fact that the advancement of Christianity depended mostly upon the willingness of every Christian to preach the gospel of Christ through their lives, their deeds, and their actions as well as by their attitude towards their fellow men. To achieve this, the speaker added, it was essential that everyone should come to the full realization that the true church of God is built of the lives and hearts of His faithful followers and not of the four walls of brick and mortar.

In his last sermon Mr. Yap laid stress on the necessity of following the footsteps of Christ and to shape one's thoughts and actions in conformity with the beautiful examples set by Him. The congregations responded to the call by pledging their loyalty to Him who is the Savior of all mankind.

Lee Seng Hap.

ANNUAL BAZAAR—METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL, SINGAPORE

The annual bazaar, Methodist Girls' School, Singapore, will be held at the school grounds, 11 Mount Sophia, Saturday, October 20th from 3 to 7 p.m. All friends are very cordially invited to be present.

OUR BOYS & GIRLS

A. D.

THE BELL OF ATRI

One day King Giovanni was riding slowly through some of the beautiful forests in his lovely kingdom of Atri. He was musing contentedly on the caprices of his little son that morning, wondering what mischief he would next fall into. There were many things in his life which he felt glad about and he hoped that when his son grew up life would treat the son as beneficently as it had done the father.

Suddenly the Knight who had been riding just behind him, attracted his master's attention to an object directly in their pathway and just a hundred yards or so ahead. This path was swept every day before the King took his daily ride and all obstacles were cleared away. What was this then? As they approached they discovered to their surprise that it was a dying man, scarcely able to summon up enough energy to talk to them.

The King said, "How does it happen that you are here, my dear man, and are so weak? Have you no one who will look after you and care for you?"

Very haltingly the man replied, "Your Majesty, as I was travelling into the city early this morning a gang of robbers sprang out upon me to take from me my money. I fought with them, but they were too many for me and they wounded me so grievously that I felt I must die. I tried to make my way into the city hoping someone would take pity on me. But no-one would care for me, for I had no money. Wearily I dragged myself through the city hoping to reach these lovely woods before I died." The man's voice had sunk to a whisper and he seemed to fall into a swoon. The King and the Knight lifted the dying man on to the Knight's horse and very slowly and carefully returned to the Palace.

The King was much grieved that such a thing should happen in his Kingdom, so he called together the Council of Atri. There in solemn conclave it was decided that something must be done about distressed people coming into the city needing help. They pondered long on the best method of procedure, but no-one seemed to know what to suggest. Suddenly a little old man jumped up in joy and said, "I have it; I have it. Let us erect a large bell in the city square. Let it be noised abroad that anyone who wants help needs only to pull the Bell of Atri and the Council will immediately assemble to discuss his needs."

When the Bell was being erected the children of the city watched with keen interested eyes. They wondered who would be the first to pull it. One lad clad more richly than the others was the only one who laughed about it all. The little old man who had suggested the building of the Bell watched the erection even more keenly than the children, and became very annoyed at this young aristocrat's scorn. Wagging his forefinger in a jerky emphatic way the little man said to the boy, "Some day, my lad, you may have cause to remember this Bell."

Many years passed. King Giovanni died. His mischievous young son, now a talented and worthy young man, took up the reins of government in a capable way. The young aristocrat too had grown up and had become very skilled in horsemanship. His stables were better equipped than any in the country and his horses were the talk of the countryside. But few liked him as he was still very scornful of everything anyone but himself did. In his stables was an old courser who in its younger days had been the pride of his stables. But now he was old and incapable of strenuous work. The young Knight one day said to his hostler, "Get rid of this old courser. Turn him loose in the countryside."

The horse wandered into the city. There he soon became very hungry. Only here and there could he find patches of grass to feed on, and this didn't satisfy him, having been used to the good food in his master's stables. The poor old courser was therefore willing to eat anything. One day when he was very very hungry and worn out, he stumbled into the Public Square. What smell was that that made his nostrils quiver? Surely there must be some snakeweed here! The horse soon found it. To protect the hands of the people who might need to pull the Bell someone had from time to time wound a piece of snakeweed round the rope. With every bite the horse took the bell rang out, "Ding-Dong, Ding-Dong."

Soon the whole Council of Atri was assembled to see who needed their help. You can imagine their surprise at seeing the horse. Many laughed, but those who recognized the horse were very serious "Surely," said one of them, "this is the old courser belonging to the Knight who is renowned for his horses. Perhaps he is looking for his old friend now. Let us find out what has happened." Others who knew the Knight sensed that there was more than that behind it.

A messenger was sent to enquire; on his return he told of the very haughty and scornful way in which the young Knight had received the news. The Council now knowing the truth, decided that the horse should be helped. The Knight was ordered to keep

(*Continued on p.* 21.)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

R. M. H & D. H. Y.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE MOVIES?

By P. R. Hayward.

Seventy-seven million people in the United States every week respond to the popular slogan for spare time, "Let's Go to the Movies." Eleven million of these, or one in six, are fourteen years of age or under and twenty-eight million, or about one in three, are minors. So it becomes an important question to ask, "What happens to people in the movies?" Are the movies good or bad? Do they cause crime, or do we merely think so? Do the scenes that shock adults merely go over the heads of children? Do they affect character or merely get folks steamed up for a while?

Until 1933, the answers to these questions were mostly guess-work. A few practical studies, some prejudices in both directions, limited personal experience, a great deal of propaganda, some assumptions based on strong emotions—these were about all we had to go on to answer such questions.

In 1933, however, there were published the results of a four-year study of the movies. With that event guess-work passed out and some scientific conclusions came in. With the study and its findings this article briefly deals.

The Content of Pictures.

What do we actually see? What proportion of movies are—what?

Five hundred feature pictures in 1920, 1925, and 1930 revealed this:

29.6% dealt with romantic love
27.4% dealt with crime
15 % dealt with sex

These are called the Big Three, since together they include 72% of all of these 500 "features."

For example, the list of crime pictures includes: black-mailing; extortion; injury, hate, and revenge—the idea of vengeance—feuds; corruption in politics or business, bribery, swindling, crook plays, criminal activity predominant; racketeers, bootleggers, gamblers, gangsters, smugglers, thieves; outlaws, bandits, rustlers—"western" type—holdups, gunfighting, etc., being the main interest; and criminal types and activities—prison stories.

Summing it all up, as Dr. Dale says, "This is a rather sorry lay-out for the children."

What Do Children Remember?

Learning facts is a part of life and also an important feature of the movies. It was found that: Children of eight and nine years remember one-half of facts to be seen, or 60% of adult score; those of eleven and twelve years remember two-thirds of facts to be seen, or 75% of adult score; those of fifteen and sixteen years remember four-fifths of facts to be seen, or 91% of adult score.

These results were secured by examinations of children and adults the next day after seeing a picture. But, of more significance, is the fact that *movie facts stick.* For example, children of eight and nine years after six weeks remember 90% of what they knew the next day after the movie. Three months after seeing a picture they remembered as much as after six weeks. And in the case of "Tom Sawyer" they remembered more as time went on. Adding to these facts the further one that children regard what they see in the movies as *authentic,* the answer to the question "What do people learn at the movies?" is important.

What Attitudes are Created?

Ideas do not always influence conduct. Attitudes do. It is, therefore, a fair question, "What attitudes are developed in the movies?" Four things were discovered as follows:

First, regular movie attendants score lower than those who go infrequently in scholarship, in reputation of teachers, in co-operation, in self-control, in honesty, in judgment, and in emotional stability.

Second, prevailing admirations and antagonisms of children for classes, groups, and certain types of life are strongly influenced by moving pictures.

Third, definite attitudes, toward other races can be cultivated in many children by pictures.

Fourth, the effects or attitudes are cumulative, after repeated showings, and thus may become in many cases permanent.

The movies thus are shown to have deep and lasting effects upon the attitudes of children.

What Happens to Emotions?

By elaborate tests, the emotions of children while seeing pictures of danger and sex were registered. Changes in circulation, for example, were carefully recorded. Some scenes produce slight or no reaction in children at nine years, but this response increases and is at its height at sixteen to eighteen years. Cases of fright include biting finger nails, crunching teeth, twisting caps, grabbing one's neighbour, shivery feelings, screaming, jumping out of the seat. The movie does affect the emotions.

Do the Movies Influence Sleep?

This question introduces one to another fascinating section of these reports. One must hurry on to record in this brief survey simply the fact that boys will average 26% more restlessness (shown by turnings in bed) than normal, and girls 14%. A boy who saw a movie and went to bed at 9 o'clock would show as much restlessness as if he had sat up till midnight. So, unwise and intemperate movie attendance will injure the health of children.

What About Conduct?

Conduct has many phases and it runs down into many roots. These are too many to consider in the brief space available. One could point out the evident effect of the movies upon crime, and cite the words of boys who got the stimulus, the idea, and the specific skill for commiting crimes from the screen. He could instance the clear testimony of boys and girls as to the way in which love scenes on the screen have led to sex delinquency. He could show how the crude display of luxury and of "easy money" makes young people discontented with their modest homes and the slower financial returns from hard work and economy. But time would fail me to tell of careful testimonies of boys and girls gone wrong, of twisted views of life, of the weird standards of desperadoes applied to ordinary existence. These studies have already changed the views of countless persons to the movie problem. They will change them more.

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—*International Journal of Religious Education.*

The above books, as well as a pamphlet reprint from the Christian Century "Your Child and the Movies" by Fred Easton, may be ordered through the Methodist Book Room, 10 Mount Sophia, Singapore.

The Rev. H. B. Amstutz prepares a film estimate monthly for the A.C.S., Singapore. A similar estimate is prepared by the A.C.S., Ipoh. Copies may be ordered from Mr. Amstutz, Singapore, or from Mr. Kuppusamy, Ipoh.

(*Continued from p.* 19.)

the courser in his best stable and the hostler was commanded to see that the horse had expert attention. When the story came to the ears of the King he was very very angered at the conduct of the Knight and commanded him to give up half of his wealth to the Public Treasury. And so the Knight had cause to remember the Bell of Atri.

(*Based on "The Bell of Atri" from "The Hundred Ancient Tales"*).

WHY I GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

I go to Sunday School because I like the service before the classes and the classes themselves.

During the service, which is held in the church, one finds that the Divine power is present at the service. This Divine presence accounts for the patience and quietitude of those present in the service.

Since the union of both the girls and boys Sunday Schools the hymns are better sung than ever before. Those who come to our Sunday School are very glad to come again. Glad because God has been kind to them; because they have an opportunity to enjoy good fellowship and because they learn more good things of life in one hour than the rest of the week put together.

Veerappan,
Sr. B. A.C.S. Ipoh.
(The great track man—a Hindoo.)

I wish to say that if it were not for the Ipoh Union Sunday School, I could not have come here to make a speech. Mr. Clancy, after explaining the Parable of the Pounds, once said that we should use whatever talents God has given us. This inspired me and so, though I am not gifted with speech making, here I am doing what I can. I have always learned something by attending the Ipoh Sunday School.

The class which I attend has been very interesting and instructive, and I shall never be tired of attending it.

Lee Kwang Hua,
Sr. A.
(A Christian lad from Sitiawan. An honour student.)

There is a meeting for young boys and girls over in the church on every Sunday at 10.30. In this congregation, we learn how to sing beautiful hymns and hear interesting speeches on Christianity.

After this assembly, we march back to the school building to attend our respective classes in which I have a chance to ask questions on what I am doubtful. We now have a very good class in our Sunday School, which is of great importance for both the young men and the young women to understand more about Christianity.

Every person has three sides to his life and these are the mental, physical and spiritual sides. In order to live a good life, he must have the three sides of his life equally developed, so I sincerely hope that all of you will come to Sunday School this Sunday and enjoy the talk on Christian Religion with me.

Foo Ban Choon,
Jr. A. Ipoh,
A.C.S.
(Not yet a member or a Christian).

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Long Distance Hearing

Recently the following testimonial was received by a patent medicine concern:

"For nine years I was totally deaf, and after using your ear salve for only ten days I heard from my brothe: in Nebraska."

Once upon a time there was a wise husband who bought his wife such fine china that she wouldn't trust him to wash and dry the dishes.

"Of course," said Briggs, as he commenced to tackle the portion of chicken with his knife and fork, "I may be wrong, but it strikes me that this chicken—"

"Well," snapped the landlady, tersely, "and what's the matter with the chicken?"

Briggs shrugged his shoulders.

"Oh, nothing—nothing," he said, offhandedly. "I was going to say that it is quite evident that the bird was an offspring of a hard-boiled egg."

A doctor said to a woman patient, "How old did you say you were?"

"I never mentioned my age," she said, "but as a matter of fact, I've just reached twenty-one."

"Indeed!" the doctor said. "What detained you?"

Wife (at table)—"David, you don't love me any more. You always used to give me the bigger helpings, now you take them yourself."

Husband—"Nonsense, darling! You cook much better now."

Mother—"No, Jimmie, for the third time I tell you that you cannot have any more dessert."

Jimmie—"All right; but I don't see where dad gets the idea that you're always changing your mind."

"That looks like an old axe," said the visitor to the town's oldest inhabitant.

"So it is, sir. That axe is seventy-five years old. I bought it when I was a boy."

"The axe seems just as good as when you bought it, doesn't it?"

"Well," replied the inhabitant after a thoughtful pause, "it's had three new blades and five new handles, but except for that she's just the same, sir, just the same—."

Little Mary had been taught politeness. One day the minister called, and Mary, awaiting a pause in the conversation, remarked: "I hear we soon are to have the pleasure of losing you."

"Travelled all over the world, eh? Went up the Rhine, I suppose?"

"Climbed it to the top."

"Saw the Lion of St. Mark?"

"Fed it."

"And visited the Black Sea?"

"Filled my fountain pen there."

Refreshments Between Halfs

A footballer was explaining the rules of Rugby to a Cockney boy.

"You know what a try is?" he said.

"Yes, sir: the thing wot muvver puts the teacups on!"

"Did you," asked the romantic young woman, "ever come across a man who, at the slightest touch, caused you to thrill and tremble in every fiber of your being?" "Yes," said her friend, who had no romance at all in her system, "my dentist."

"What did you rip the back part out of that new book for?" asked the long-suffering wife of the absent-minded doctor.

"Excuse me, dear," said the famous surgeon; "the part you speak of was labeled 'Appendix' and I took it out without thinking.

Playing up the Organs

The teacher was explaining the five senses to her children. Finally she asked some questions. "Mary, can you tell us about the senses?"

"Yes" said Mary. "We see with our eye organs, we hear with our ear organs, we smell with our nose organs, we eat with our mouth organs, and feel with our hand organs."

First lady: "You rotund, decangular, eolithic, ferruginous, neuropathic cassowary, you—!"

Second lady: "Would you listen to the languidge of 'er since she's been doin' crossword puzzles!"

Assured of Audience

Actor: "Yes, my friends, usually my audiences are glued to their seats."

Skeptic: "What a clever way of keeping them there."

When supper was served, Helen refused a second helping of ice cream with a polite but wistful "No, thank you!"

"Do have some more, dear!" her hostess urged.

"Mother told me to say, 'No, thank you,' " Helen explained naïvely, "but I don't think she could have known how small the first helping was going to be!"

Correspondence

Bukit Ho Swee.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Your September issue of the Malaysia Message contained an article on the work that has been done in the above district. As one having reliable information on the Subject I should like to make a few statements which I hope will be of interest to all—especially Church Workers.

The article, apparently written just after the fire at that district, stated that it seemed they would not have the Sunday School there again. I am happy to say, Mr. Editor, that that is not so. The Sunday School is still being continued, and what is more, the attendance for the last few weeks has been quite satisfactory. It is of interest to note that, although the recent fire has scattered the people of this district, the workers have been able to get in touch with almost all the members of the Bukit Ho Swee Sunday School. Many of them are still living near the district. I enclose herewith a picture of some of the children who were "brave" enough to face the camera on Sunday, the 9th instant.

The former District Parish Visitor, in her report to the Quarterly Conference of the Telok Ayer Church last year, mentioned that the Rev. Hong Hang Keng and Madam Tan Ai Mui were the only persons on whom she could depend to carry on the work, and appealed for more support from the Young People of the Church. Judging from the number of workers who attended the Bukit Ho Swee services since the beginning of this year, it would seem that the position is no better, although, I am given to understand, help was promised from certain quarters. Except on very rare occasions when one or two workers from the Eveland Seminary were present, the only persons who attended regularly are those faithful ones mentioned in the report; which goes to prove that the former District Parish Visitor's statement was not unfounded. *There are still opportunities for service in this district*, Mr. Editor, and I believe the need for more regular voluntary helpers is still there.

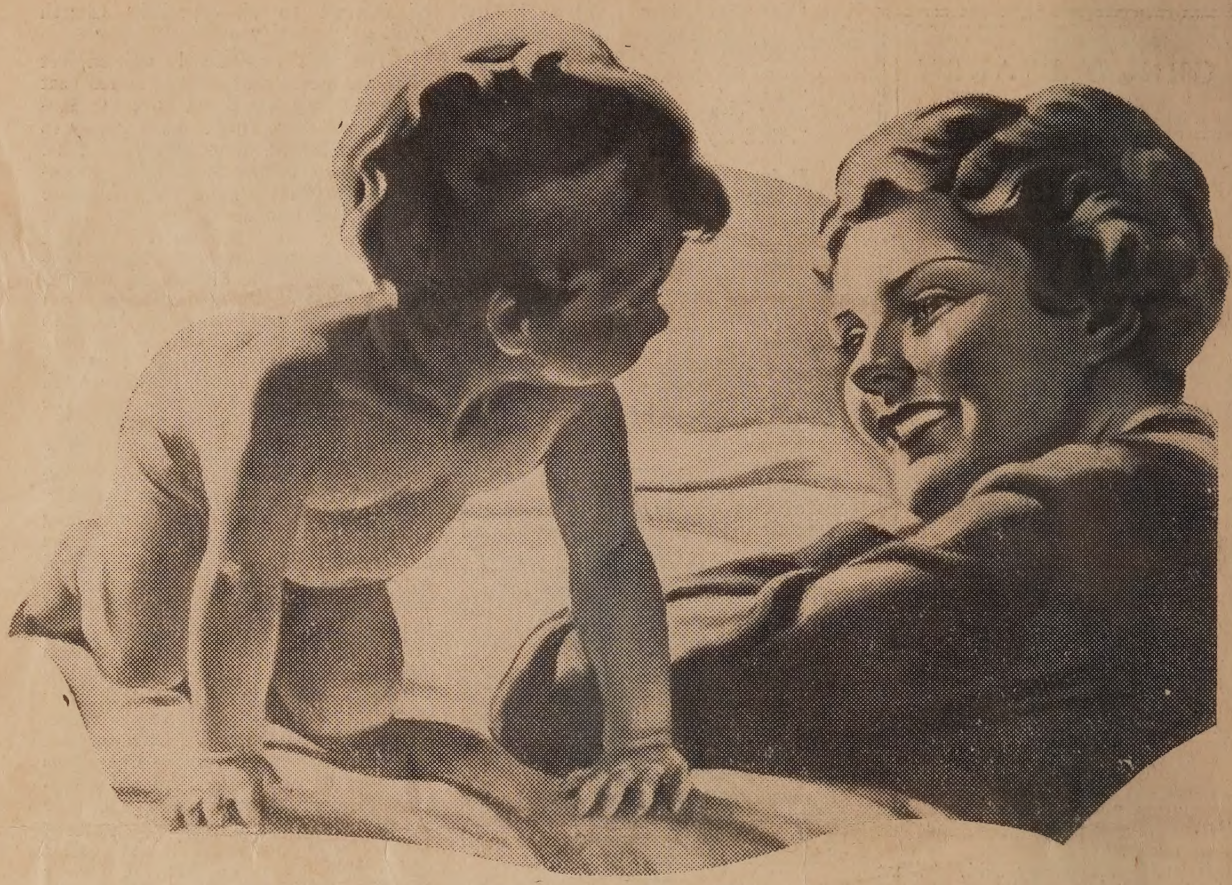
The Sunday School is being held in the same place, i.e. the home of Madam Keow Chee, which miraculously escaped being burnt during the recent fire. A few of the children who had never attended the Sunday School before, have now started to come. It is reported that the parents of these children have been heard to say that their gods did not save them during the fire. *The attendance at the Telok Ayer Church now includes some who had been strong opposers of Christianity before the fire!* Madam Keow Chee and the Rev. Hong Hang Keng can testify the fact that the fire was in some way a blessing to the Church.

I understand that last year a fund was started to build a Chapel in this district. If this is so, I am sure it would be interesting to know if any progress has been made towards establishing this fund. In my unqualified opinion, a chapel for the Sunday School might perhaps attract more children.

Yours sincerely,

LCK.

Singapore, 24th Sept. 1934.



Mother and Child

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